



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 23, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas D. Watkins Jr., Chairman

SUBJECT: High Priority Schools-Presentation on Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs/Michigan Department of Education Task Force on Creativity, Arts, and Cultural Education

The Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Department Education have partnered to jointly convene a task force that mobilizes stakeholders, best practices, and resources in support of creativity, arts and cultural education in Michigan.

Dr. William Anderson, Director of the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries, and I have agreed to serve as honorary chairs for this Task Force that will align its work with the State Board of Education Strategic Goal and Governor Granholm's Great Starts and Cool Cities initiatives.

The Task Force on Creativity, Arts and Cultural Education will build upon the many years of work in support of arts education by State Board members Kathleen N. Straus and Eileen Lappin Weiser who served on ArtServe Michigan. In addition, Mrs. Straus served on the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Study Group on the Lost Curriculum, and Mrs. Weiser served on the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. The Task Force will continue the work of the NASBE Study Group in Michigan by focusing its work on the identification of resources, best practices, and quality assessment measures that support high priority schools, students, and communities.

The Task Force will conduct its work on an expedited sixty-day timeframe. Work groups will review research; identify expertise, promising practices and strategies; assess needs and make recommendations in the areas of:

- High priority schools
- Early childhood
- Community and out-of-school programs
- Higher education
- Economic development

The Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs has secured Challenge America Grant funds from the National Endowment for the Arts to launch the work of the Task Force whose initial work is intended to be shared with high priority schools and communities during the 2004-2005 school year.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

KATHLEEN N. STRAUS – PRESIDENT • HERBERT S. MOYER – VICE PRESIDENT
CAROLYN L. CURTIN – SECRETARY • JOHN C. AUSTIN – TREASURER
MARIANNE YARED MCGUIRE – NASBE DELEGATE • ELIZABETH W. BAUER
REGINALD M. TURNER • EILEEN LAPPIN WEISER

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324